NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ROADS NOTICE OF HIGHWAY PUBLIC MEETING

Tues., June 25, 2013; 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Project Development Open House Workshop Lincoln Southwest High School, 7001 South 14th St., Lincoln, Nebraska

DPU-LIN-2-6(120) Lincoln South Beltway; CN 12578D

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), the City of Lincoln, and Lancaster County will hold a public open house regarding the development of the south beltway project, south of the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County. The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Southwest High School, 7001 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE, Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 4:00-7:00 P.M.

Identified as *Lincoln South Beltway*, the proposed project would begin on Nebraska Highway 2 (N-2) at South 148th Street, diverge at the intersection of South 120th Street, and run south of Saltillo Road, proceeding west to U.S. Highway 77 (US-77) between Saltillo Road and Bennet Road. This new four-lane divided roadway would allow N-2 traffic to reach US-77 as an alternate route for local, regional, and interstate traffic traveling around the City of Lincoln; the road would improve traffic flow and reduce conflicts and congestion throughout the area.

Originally conceived in the 1970s, the Lincoln Beltway System concept has undergone a number of variations. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the south and east beltway system concepts was approved in 2002 with the City of Lincoln as the lead agency. NDOR project refinements progressed until 2006 on the south beltway when the development was placed on hold. The south beltway project was shelved in 2008 due to lack of a foreseeable funding source.

The NDOR has now been provided state funding which, coupled with federal and local assistance, makes development, design, and construction of the Lincoln South Beltway possible. A design consultant has been hired and preliminary engineering is currently underway. Additionally an Environmental Assessment (EA) study is in process to reevaluate the 2002 EIS. Funding will be available through the Build Nebraska Act as early as fiscal year 2020. The construction would take several years to complete.

The proposed project would require the purchase of new property rights. The existing N-2 roadway between approximately 120th Street and US-77 will be relinquished to Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln at the completion of the beltway construction; Nebraska Link 55W (L-55W) between US-77 and N-2 (also known as Warlick Boulevard and 14th Street) would also be relinquished to the City of Lincoln.

The public meeting is being held to gather information and comments. The proposed project is currently in the development phase. All interested persons are invited to attend and present relevant input. Personnel from NDOR and their consultants will be present to gather remarks and questions. The "open house" workshop format allows the public to gather pertinent information, speak one-on-one with project personnel, make comments, and leave as they wish.

NDOR will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility for all persons. Appropriate provisions for the hearing and visually challenged or persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) will be made if the Department is notified by June 14, 2013. Written materials will be available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese in compliance with state and federal regulations; interpreters in those languages will be available at the meeting. Notification should be submitted to: Greg Weinert, Public Hearings Officer, Nebraska Department of Roads, P.O. Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759; greg.weinert@nebraska.gov; voice telephone (402) 479-4871, TDD telephone (402) 479-3834, Fax (402) 479-3989.

Information regarding the proposed project is regularly updated on the NDOR website at www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/ at the "Lincoln South Beltway" link. For further information, contact Tom Goodbarn, NDOR District One Engineer, (402) 471-0850, thomas.goodbarn@nebraska.gov.

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